

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Amoss, James M., Building

and or common Knights of Pythias Building

2. Location

street & number 110 South Wabash N/A not for publication

city, town Wabash N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Wabash code 169

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Wabash Marketplace, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 432

city, town Wabash N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46992

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wabash County Recorder

street & number Wabash County Courthouse

city, town Wabash state Indiana 46992

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition

excellent

X good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

X altered

Check one

X original site

moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two-story, three bay Amoss Building is of the Italianate style and is constructed of brick with a limestone foundation and quoins. The main (east) facade faces the busy downtown thoroughfare of Wabash Street. (Photo 1.) Located on an incline, the first story entry is approached by way of two limestone steps. The center entrance is flanked by display windows which stretch to the outside edges of the main facade. Each window is framed by limestone pilasters capped by simple stone Tuscan capitals. The original door, once replaced with a much smaller door, has recently been returned to its original proportions. The frame of the original transom is still in place, as are the two panels above the display windows.

The first and second stories are separated by a denticulated cornice of pressed metal which terminates with limestone scroll blocks. (Photo 2.) Attached to this cornice are four wrought iron brackets which originally held a balcony above the first floor entryway. A balcony has recently been reinstalled. Access to the balcony is from a second-story doorway centered in the main facade. This door, with a round arched glass in the upper half and a pair of recessed wooden panels below, is of identical width to the flanking second floor windows, with a panel above. All three second floor openings have stone sills and are surmounted by elaborate pressed metal window hoods supported by metal brackets. The corners of the second story masonry wall are accented by rusticated limestone quoins. The denticulated, pressed metal cornice is divided into three elongated oval panels, by four large and elaborate scroll brackets.

The west facade is two-story brick with a center, first-story entrance, and two-over-two windows on either side; second-story windows are directly above the first-story windows. The windows are all wood framed with limestone sills and brick relieving arches.

Inside the Jim Amoss Building, the brick party walls, as well as the ceilings, are plastered. Interior doors and trim are painted and grained to look like oak, and finished with a clear varnish.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates 1880

Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amoss Building is an excellent example of a commercial Italianate structure. Never substantially altered, the building is key to the contiguous city block of 19th century buildings where it is located. Just south of the Wabash County Courthouse and on the town's main thoroughfare, the building was significant to the commercial development and stability of the flourishing town.

This fine Italianate structure was built by James M. Amoss to serve as his law office. Completed in 1880, the same year Wabash became the first city illuminated by electric lights, it was constructed during the period of greatest growth in Wabash. In this busy, progressive community, the last quarter of the 19th century witnessed the construction of the greatest part of the town's existing commercial district. The Amoss Building is the only Italianate within that area to have escaped significant exterior alterations.

James Amoss, the original owner of the building, had arrived in Wabash as a young man of eighteen. Born at Point Pleasant, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1838, he arrived in Wabash with his family in 1856. Choosing to follow a career in law, Amoss became equally active in the political arena, serving two terms as County Clerk. After he entered private practice with James Mackey in 1875, they moved their offices to the newly constructed Amoss Building early in 1881. After Mackey's death in 1887, Amoss entered the real estate business. His office remained on the building's first floor until 1897, when he moved his office to the Ray Block.

During the late 19th and early 20th century, the second floor of the building was the Knights of Pythias Lodge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

January 20, 1883 - Wabash Plain Dealer
January 18, 1907 - Wabash Plain Dealer

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wabash, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	9	9	4	8	0	4	5	1	6	7	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Start 22' South of Southwest corner of Main and Wabash, go South 22' on Wabash, West 62', North 22', East back to Wabash 62'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy G. Dekau and Schuette Mohler and Associates

organization Wabash Marketplace, Inc. date September 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 432 or 450 N. Cass Street telephone 219/563-8239

city or town Wabash state Indiana 46992

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title date 7-24-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

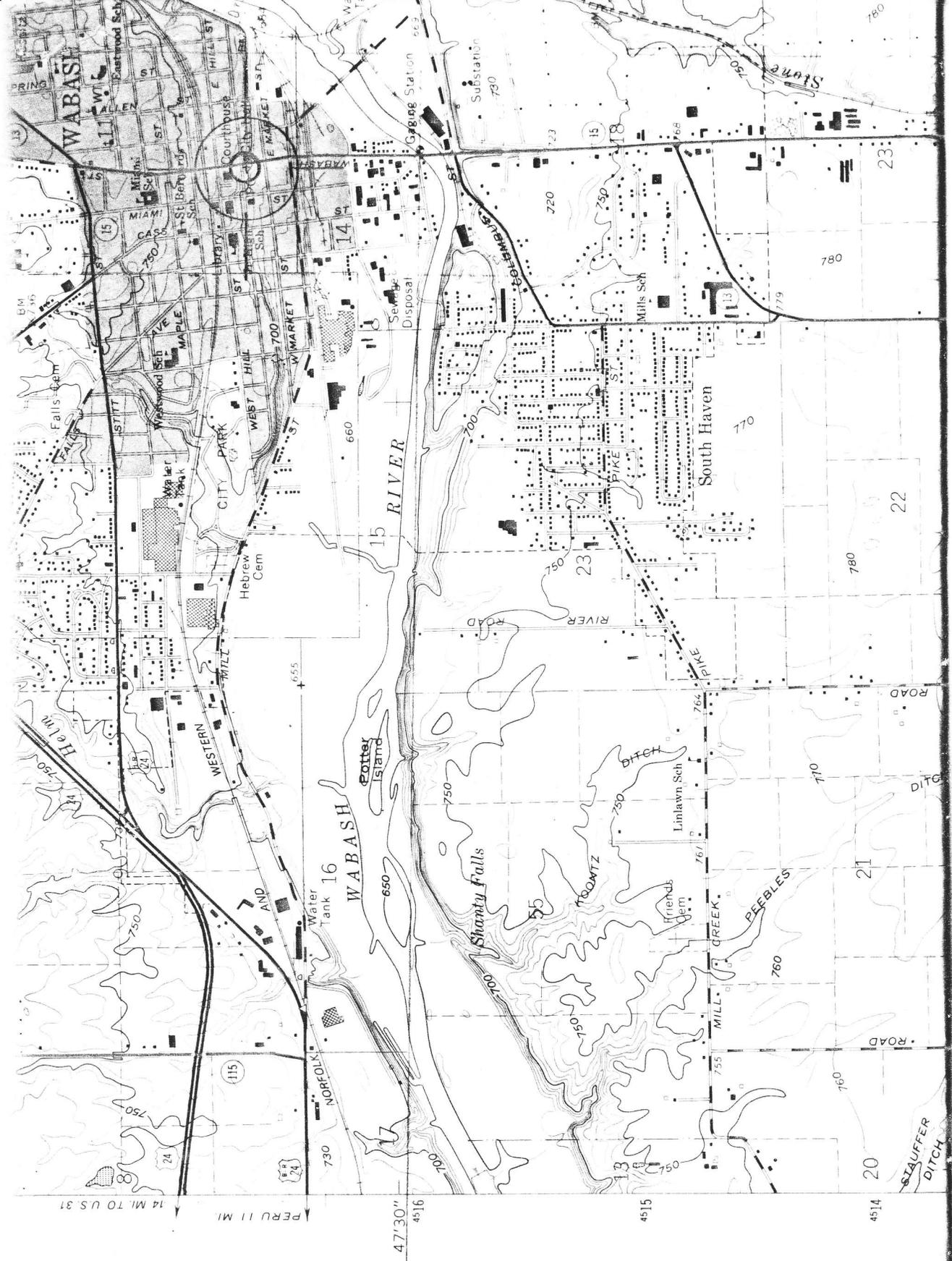
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



James M. Amoss Building
 Wabash, Indiana
 UTM Reference: 16/599480/4516760